

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for accepting the drawings filed on November 26, 2003. Additionally, the applicant also thanks the Examiner for his acknowledgment of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a) and receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification due the title allegedly not being descriptive. The title has been amended and thus withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Nagata (Pub# 20030053096, hereinafter "Nagata").

Along with this Response, Applicants are submitting a Rule 131 Declaration and Invention Disclosure Forms indicating that the present invention was made earlier than Nagata's effective U.S. filing date of September 12, 2002.

The Rule 131 Declaration and Invention Disclosure Forms and attached Exhibits A-F and translations demonstrate and evidence conception of the invention prior to September 12, 2002 (*see* paragraph 3), coupled with continued diligence to the filing of Japanese Patent Application Japanese Application No. 2002-346004 and Japanese Application No. 2002-356533 on November 28, 2002 and December 9, 2002 respectively (i.e., constructive reduction to practice) (*see* paragraphs 6-8), from which the above-identified application claims benefit of priority. Therefore, Nagata is properly antedated. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to remove the §102(a) rejection based on Nagata.

At least based on the foregoing, Applicants request removal of Nagata as a prior art reference.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

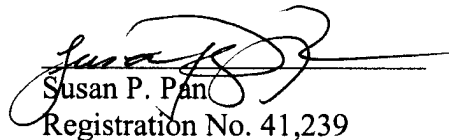
Respectfully submitted,

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